

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

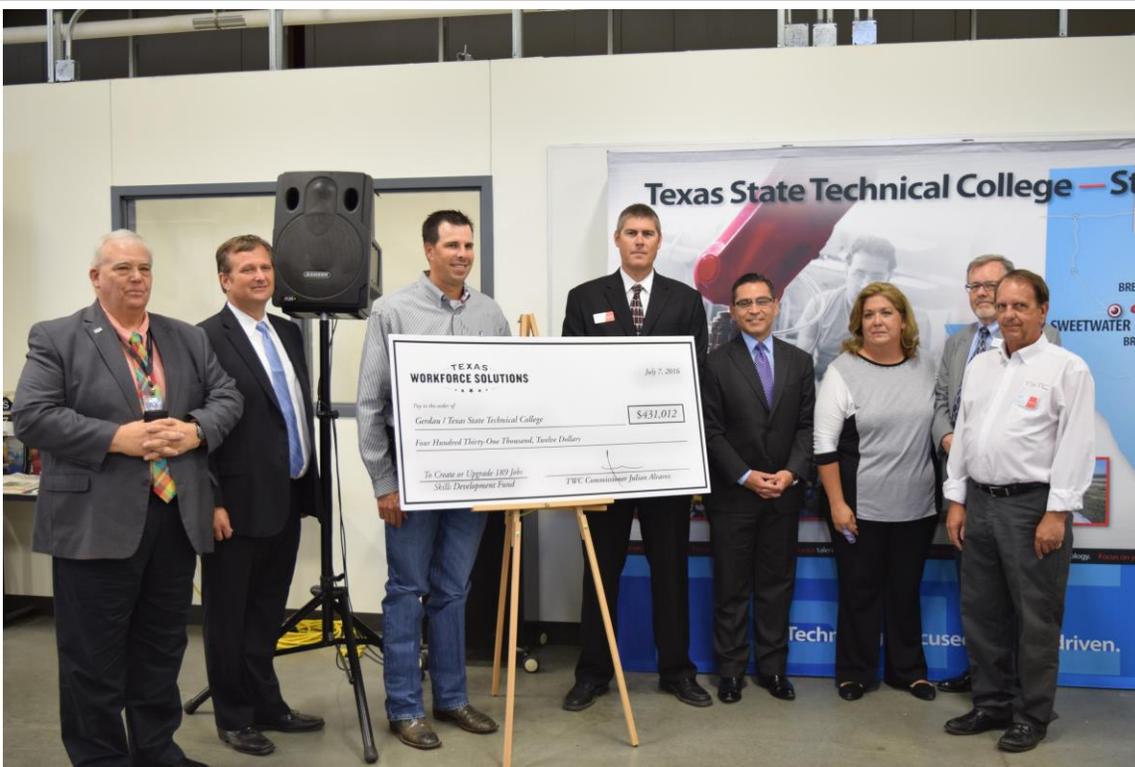
**DATE:** July 8, 2016

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## **Gerdau Partners with Texas State Technical College for \$431,012 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Gerdau has partnered with Texas State Technical College (TSTC) to provide job training for 189 new and incumbent workers using a \$431,012 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions North Central Texas area.



TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez presents a \$431,012 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Texas State Technical College (TSTC) and Gerdau during a ceremony on July 7, 2016. Pictured from left: North Central Texas Council of Governments Senior Business Development Liaison Bobby Klahn; TSTC Senior Executive Director of Workforce Training Ken Buchanan; Gerdau Human Resources Manager Kenneth Schappert; TSTC North Texas Provost Marcus Balch; Commissioner Alvarez; TSTC Resource Development Specialist of Sponsored Programs Judith Ybarra; TSTC Executive Vice President of Industry Relations Bob Livingston; and TSTC Project Manager of Indirect Cost Instruction Kenneth Guenat.

*Photo courtesy of Texas State Technical College*

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This grant will be used to provide customized training to 189 new and incumbent workers for industry-related topics with focused instruction on hydraulics, electrical troubleshooting and motor controls, mechanical crane inspections, and bearings. Trainees will include master and maintenance mechanics, and mechanical, electrical and engineering technicians. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$27.89.

“The partnership between Texas State Technical College and Gerdau on this Skills Development Fund grant will benefit both the local community and its workforce,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. “Our labor force is among the most talented and skilled in the world and we continue to seek and implement strategies to improve the skills of Texas workers.”

The Skills Development Fund grant program is celebrating 20 years of success as the state’s premier training program in 2015-16. The fund was initiated by the Legislature in September of 1995 and first began awarding contracts in 1996. During that time the Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 329,333 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,141 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated \$48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2016-17 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at [texasworkforce.org/skills](http://texasworkforce.org/skills).

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*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org). To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).*